

The Beginning Era of Concern About Natural Resources (1850-1904)

This era is marked by the realization that resources are limited and that they need to be managed in a sustainable way in order to preserve our society.

CURRENT ACRES IN FOREST SYSTEM LANDS
62,611,000

GEORGE PERKINS MARSH - 1864

The beginning of America's concern about the conservation of land for the people can be traced back to George Perkins Marsh, who in 1864 wrote the book *Man and Nature: Or Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action*. This influential book drew on the past to illustrate how human actions had harmed the earth – leading to the demise of earlier civilizations.



Thomas Moran, *The Mountain of the Holy Cross, Colorado, 1876*

The Hudson River School painters with their esthetic appreciation for the spiritual values of the forest ushered in a new paradigm for human's relationship with nature.

U.S. Population - 1900 - 76.1 million

MARCH 1, 1872 – YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

authorized creation of Yellowstone National Park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people—the first national park for the United States and the world.



In 1872, Congress passed a bill to establish Yellowstone National Park and preserve its natural resources. Civilian superintendents administered the park for the first few years, but they were unable to stop widespread hunting and trapping there. The Army took over control of the park in 1886 and began to protect the wildlife. A detachment of cavalry occupied the park until 1916, when Congress established the National Park Service.

In 1872 the vast wilderness of the west was viewed by most Americans as something to be tamed, to be explored, settled, mined, logged, ranched and farmed.

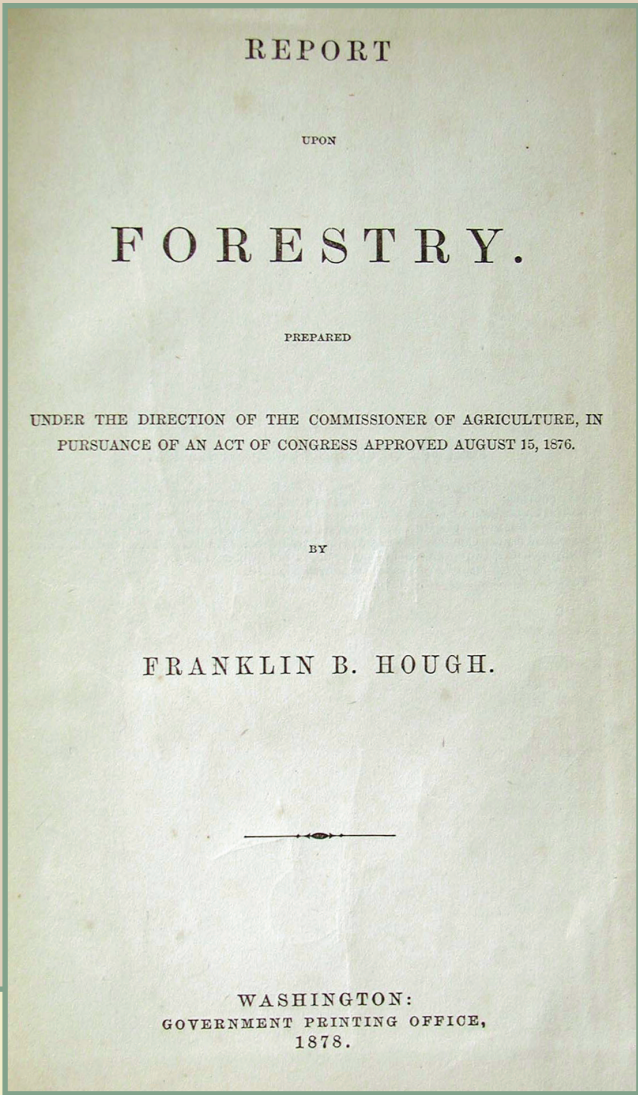
That such a park could have been created more than a century ago is perhaps the most illustrative indicator of how unique and magnificent the Yellowstone country was perceived to be, even then.

1873

Franklin B. Hough presents a paper at the American Academy for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). "On the Duty of Governments in the Preservation of Forests."



Partners by Charles M. Russell



1876

Franklin Hough is hired as the first federal forestry expert and is stationed at the United States Department of Agriculture.

MAY 10, 1872 – THE GENERAL MINING LAW OF 1872

promotes the development of the mining resources of the United States. All valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States were declared to be free and open to exploration and purchase by citizens of the United States.



1901 – Reflecting the popular fascination with nature-based recreation and concern with wild nature as a resource for character development, Ernest Thompson Seton publishes a series of articles in the *Ladies' Home Journal* calling for the creation of a boys' organization to be named the Woodcraft Indians; this directly inspires Sir Robert Baden-Powell's founding of the Boy Scouts in Britain in 1908 and helps launch the scouting movement in the United States.

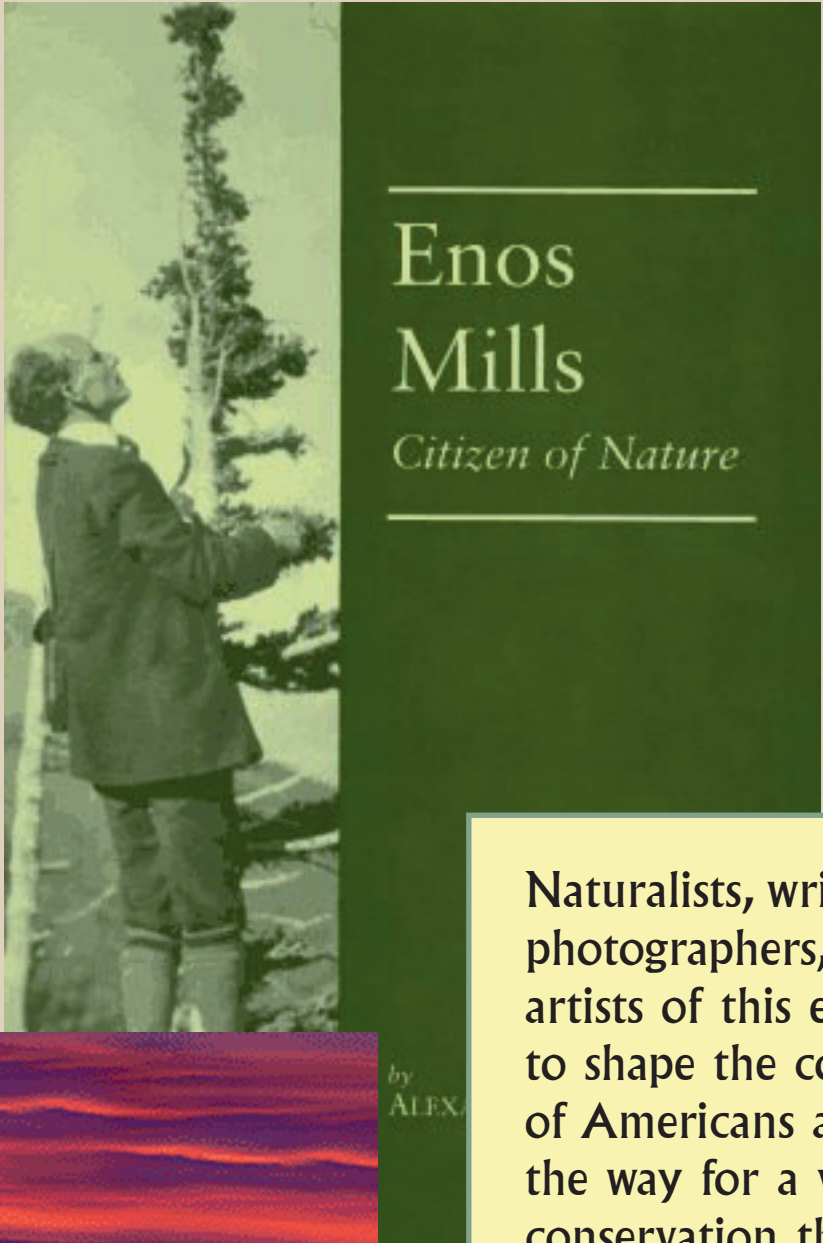
Each generation takes the Earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed.

J. Sterling Morton, Founder of Arbor Day

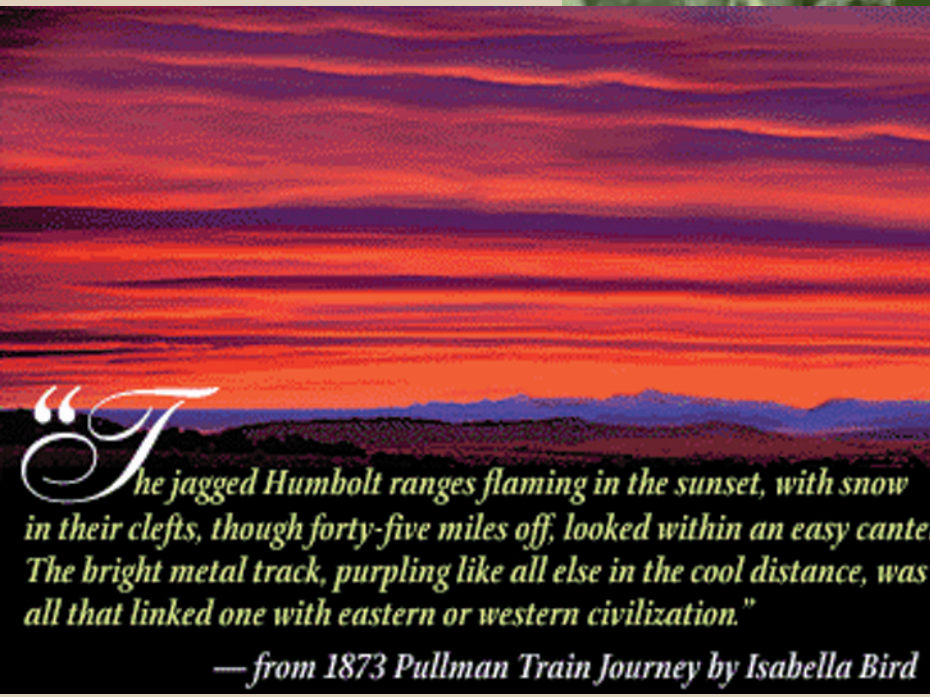
THE FIRST ARBOR DAY

On January 4, 1872, J. Sterling Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting properly the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

1866 – Word “ecology” is coined by a German biologist, Ernest Haeckel.



1867 – Alaska purchased from Russia – known as “Seward’s Folly”.



CIVIL WAR – 1861-1865

It was our only internal war, pitting American against American, brother against brother. It was our bloodiest war by far, with one out of every four soldiers killed or wounded. (The Mexican War had a similar casualty rate, but far fewer soldiers were involved.) The War Between the States was also one of our most complex and confusing wars. Depending on whom you talk to, it was a glorious event filled with gallantry and heroics or a circus act that saw incompetent and arrogant generals condemn soldiers to death in suicidal assaults.

1898 – Spanish American War



1902–The first Federal Nursery is established by Dr. Bessey in Halsey Nebraska. The largest hand-planted forest in the country is established (the Bessey Ranger District) in the sand hills of south central Nebraska.

Inventions during this era included:

Telegraph
Hand-held cameras
Air brakes
Pasteurization
Light bulb
Gas motor engines
Calculating machine
Radio



Sheet Music - 1902
In the good Old Summertime by George Evans

Employees
45
1898

1898

First use of forest rangers for management. All of the positions are in the Department of Interior's General Land Office (GLO). The USDI Geological Survey is tapped to map the forest reserves.

1900 - THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS IS ESTABLISHED AT GIFFORD PINCHOT'S HOME IN WASHINGTON.



1901 – John Muir publishes *Our National Parks*, a beautifully-written portrait of some of the nation's great scenic wildernesses by their greatest defender; the book goes through a dozen printings and establishes Muir's reputation in the public mind.

1901 – THE RIGHT OF WAY ACT

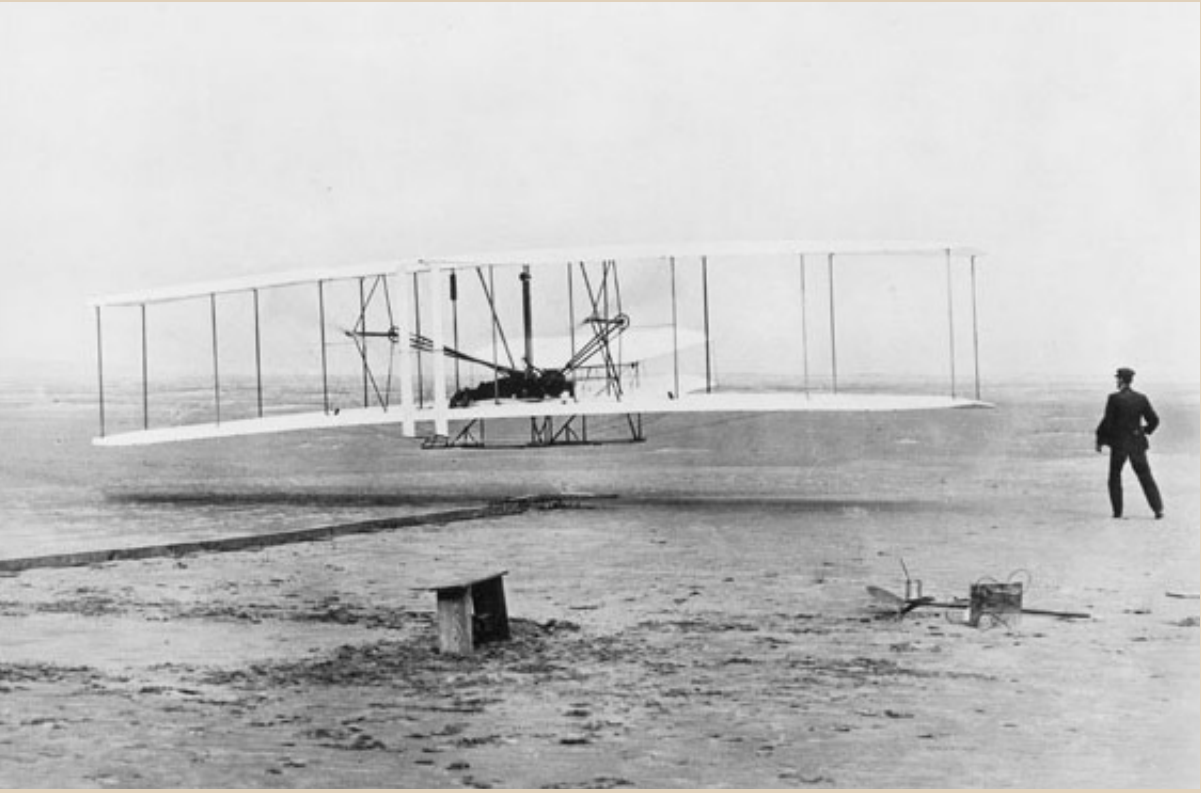
permits the use of rights of way through forest reserves and national parks for electrical power, telephone and telegraph communication, and irrigation and water supply.

1886 – Karl Benz invents the first practical car.

Foods first made in this era included:

1886 – Coca-Cola
1888 – Log Cabin Syrup
1890 – Lipton Tea
1893 – Cream of Wheat
1895 – Triscuits
1897 – Jell-O
1898 – Nabisco Graham Crackers

Teddy Bears appear in 1902 (named after Theodore Roosevelt).



1903 – First airplane flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

1862 – Department of Agriculture is established

1901 – Instant coffee is invented.